

## **THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of tracking environmental performance of a producer of environmental emissions, the method comprising:
  - selecting a production practice of the producer;
  - selecting a protocol applicable with the production practice for determining at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal;
  - collecting production practice data of the producer for a pre-selected time period responsive to the protocol;
  - converting the production practice data to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors;
  - designating a geographical reference for the producer;
  - converting the environmental data to an emission reduction unit for a transferring thereof; and
  - assigning an identifier to the emission reduction unit, wherein the identifier includes a sequence portion characterizing a succession thereof and a vintage portion characterizing the pre-selected time period for the production practice, and a characterizing portion characterizing at least one of the geographical reference and the protocol.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the characterizing portion of the identifier includes at least one of a first field identifying a protocol type, a second field identifying a version of the protocol, and a third field identifying an authority for the protocol.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the pre-selected time period comprises a calendar year for the production practice by the producer.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the geographical reference includes a location representative of the production practice.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the location is identified by a longitude and latitude.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the emission reduction unit comprises a plurality of emission reduction units resulting from the environmental data converting, and wherein the sequence portion of the identifier includes a range of sequence numbers representing the plurality of emission reduction units.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the production practice data converting includes the protocol having conversion factors selected from the group including reducing GHG emissions, providing clean water credits, providing clean air credits, providing soil erosion credits, and certifying animal welfare.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the GHG reducing includes a parameter selected from parameters including effluent loading, quantity animals, manure containment storage period, manure containment storage practice, annual animal throughput, flaring volume, flaring efficiencies, gas types and generation rates, and chemical manufacturing efficiencies and emissions.

9. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
transmitting the production practice data to a data center; and  
receiving the production practice data at the data center;

10. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
storing the identifier in a database;  
storing the production practice data in the database; and  
correlating the production practice data with the identifier for access thereto.

11. A method according to claim 10, further comprising:  
providing a password for accessing the database;  
accessing the database using the password;

providing the identifier of the emission reduction unit; and  
receiving a status regarding the emission reduction unit.

12. A method according to claim 1, further comprising at least one of selling, transferring, exchanging, and retiring the emission reduction unit.

13. A method according to claim 1, further comprising warranting the production practice data by the producer.

14. A method according to claim 1, further comprising registering the emission reduction unit.

15. A method according to claim 14, further comprising at least one of verifying a commercial suitability of the environmental emission unit, recording the registering, designating ownership of the environmental emission unit, and monitoring a transaction thereof.

16. A method according to claim 1, wherein the identifier is a serial number.

17. A method according to claim 1, wherein the converting to the emission reduction unit includes at least one of using the emission reduction unit for an environmental offset, a credit, and allowance.

18. A method according to claim 1, wherein the converting to an emission reduction unit includes choosing a registry jurisdiction.

19. A method according to claim 18, further comprising assigning a registry designator to the emission reduction unit and correlating the registry designator to the registry jurisdiction.

20. A method according to claim 19, further comprising:  
storing the registry designator, identifier, and production practice data;  
correlating the registry designator with the identifier and the identifier with the  
production practice data for access thereto.

21. A method according to claim 20 further comprising:  
providing a password for retrieving the registry designator; and  
receiving a status regarding at least one of the emission reduction unit and the  
production practice data.

22. A method according to claim 1, further comprising transferring the  
emission reduction unit and providing a transaction verification therewith, wherein the  
transaction verification includes the identifier of the emission reduction unit.

23. A method according to claim 22, wherein the transaction verification  
includes a certificate having the identifier carried thereon.

24. A method according to claim 23, wherein the identifier provides  
information regarding the protocol, the pre-selected time period, the geographical  
reference, and a sequence for the emission reduction unit corresponding to the  
emission reduction unit transferring.

25. A method according to claim 22, further comprising establishing a pool of  
emission reduction units and accessing the pool during a point of sale event for  
reducing at least a portion of the environmental emissions resulting from the point of  
sale event.

26. A method according to claim 1, further comprising transferring the  
emission reduction unit for offsetting at least a portion of an environmental emission.

27. A method according to claim 26, wherein the environmental emission results from at least one of an emitter, a plurality of emitters, and a variety of emitters, and wherein the emitter is at least one of a direct emitter and an indirect emitter.

28. A method according to claim 1, further comprising allocating emission reduction units resulting from a plurality of producers controlled by a controlling entity for offsetting environmental emissions of the controlling entity.

29. A method according to claim 1, wherein environmental emissions removal is selected from a practice group consisting of sequestration, mitigation, and avoidance.

30. A method according to claim 1, further including recording a time for the production practice data collecting and a geographic location thereof.

31. A method according to claim 1, further comprising reserving an emission reduction unit having at least one of a pre-selected geographic reference, protocol, and time period.

32. A method of tracking environmental performance, the method comprising:  
collecting production practice data representative of at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal for a time period;

converting the production practice data to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors;

designating a geographical reference for the production practice;

converting the environmental data to a plurality of emission reduction units; and

assigning an identifier to each of the plurality of emission reduction units, wherein the identifier includes a sequence portion characterizing a succession thereof, a vintage portion characterizing the time period for the production practice, and a geographical reference portion characterizing the geographical reference.

33. A method according to claim 32, further comprising selecting a protocol applicable with the production practice for quantifying the at least one of the environmental emissions and the environmental emissions removal.

34. A method according to claim 33, wherein the production practice data converting includes the protocol having conversion factors selected from the group including reducing GHG emissions, providing clean water credits, providing clean air credits, providing soil erosion credits, and certifying animal welfare.

35. A method according to claim 34, wherein the GHG reducing includes a parameter selected from parameters including effluent loading, quantity animals, manure containment storage period, manure containment storage practice, annual animal throughput, flaring volume, flaring efficiencies, gas types and generation rates, and chemical manufacturing efficiencies and emissions.

36. A method according to claim 33, wherein the characterizing portion of the identifier includes at least one of a first field identifying a protocol type, a second field identifying a version of the protocol, and a third field identifying an authority for the protocol.

37. A method according to claim 32, wherein the time period comprises a calendar year for the production practice.

38. A method according to claim 32, wherein the geographical reference includes a location representative of the production practice.

39. A method according to claim 32, further comprising:  
storing the identifier in a database;  
storing the production practice data in the database; and  
correlating the production practice data with the identifier for access thereto.

40. A method according to claim 32, further comprising at least one of selling, transferring, exchanging, and retiring at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units.

41. A method according to claim 32, further comprising at least one of:  
verifying a commercial suitability of at least a portion of the plurality of environmental emission units;  
registering at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units with a registry;  
designating ownership of at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units; and  
monitoring a transaction for at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units.

42. A method according to claim 41, further comprising assigning a registry designator to the emission reduction unit and correlating the registry designator to a registry jurisdiction.

43. A method according to claim 42, further comprising:  
storing the registry designator, identifier, and the production practice data; and  
correlating the registry designator with the identifier and the identifier with the production practice data for access thereto.

44. A method according to claim 32, further comprising transferring at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units and providing a transaction verification therewith, wherein the transaction verification includes the identifier for each of the at least a portion thereof.

45. A method according to claim 44, wherein the transaction verification includes a certificate having the identifier carried thereon.

46. A method according to claim 45, wherein the identifier provides information regarding time period, the geographical reference, and a sequence for each of the emission reduction units being transferred.

47. A method according to claim 32, wherein the environmental emission results from at least one of an emitter, a plurality of emitters, and a variety of emitters, and wherein the emitter is at least one of a direct emitter and an indirect emitter.

48. A method according to claim 32, further comprising allocating at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction to a producer of environmental emissions for an offsetting thereof.

49. A method according to claim 32, further including recording a time for the production practice data collecting and a geographic location thereof.

50. A method according to claim 32, further comprising reserving an emission reduction unit having at least one of a pre-selected geographic reference, protocol, and time period.

51. A method of tracking environmental emissions, the method comprising:  
selecting a production practice;  
selecting a protocol applicable with the production practice for quantifying at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal;  
collecting production practice data for a pre-selected time period responsive to the protocol;  
converting the production practice data to environmental data using the protocol;  
designating a geographical reference for the production practice;  
converting at least a portion of the environmental data to a plurality of emission reduction units; and  
assigning an identifier to each of the plurality of emission reduction units, wherein the identifier includes a sequence portion characterizing a succession thereof and a



vintage portion characterizing the pre-selected time period for the production practice, and a characterizing portion characterizing at least one of the geographical reference and the protocol.

52. A method according to claim 51, wherein the characterizing portion of the identifier characterizing the protocol includes a first field identifying a protocol type, a second field identifying a version of the protocol, and a third field identifying an authority for the protocol.

53. A method according to claim 51, wherein the geographical reference includes a location representative of the production practice.

54. A method according to claim 51, wherein the production practice data converting includes the protocol having conversion factors selected from the group including reducing GHG emissions, providing clean water credits, providing clean air credits, providing soil erosion credits, and certifying animal welfare.

55. A method according to claim 54, wherein the GHG reducing includes a parameter selected from parameters including effluent loading, quantity animals, manure containment storage period, manure containment storage practice, annual animal throughput, flaring volume, flaring efficiencies, gas types and generation rates, and chemical manufacturing efficiencies and emissions.

56. A method according to claim 51, further comprising:  
storing the production practice data to a database;  
storing the identifier in the database; and  
correlating the production practice data with the identifier for access thereto.

57. A method according to claim 56, further comprising:  
providing a password for accessing the database;  
accessing the database using the password;

providing the identifier for at least one of the plurality of emission reduction units;  
and  
receiving a status report for the at least one of the plurality of emission reduction units.

58. A method according to claim 57, further comprising registering at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units within a registry jurisdiction for providing a plurality of registered units.

59. A method according to claim 58, further comprising at least one of selling, transferring, exchanging, and retiring at least a portion of the plurality of registered units.

60. A method according to claim 59, further comprising:  
designating ownership of at least a portion of the plurality of registered units; and  
monitoring a transaction thereof.

61. A method according to claim 58, further comprising assigning a registry designator to the emission reduction unit and correlating the registry designator to the registry jurisdiction.

62. A method according to claim 61, further comprising correlating the registry designator with the identifier.

63. A method according to claim 62, further comprising:  
providing a password for retrieving the registry designator; and  
receiving a status regarding at least one of the plurality of registered units.

64. A method according to claim 58, further comprising providing a transaction verification for each of the plurality of registered units transferred out of the registry.

65. A method according to claim 64, wherein the transaction verification includes a certificate having the identifier carried thereon.

66. A method according to claim 51, further including recording a time for the production practice data collecting and a geographic location thereof.

67. A method according to claim 51, further comprising reserving an emission reduction unit having at least one of a pre-selected geographic reference, protocol, and time period.